



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

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California's Abandoned Mine Lands Program Fact Sheet Stay Out - Stay Alive!

• Every year, people are injured or killed in accidents on abandoned mine property in California (see summaries below), which is why the motto of the Department of Conservation's **Abandoned Mine Lands Unit (AMLU)** is "**Stay Out - Stay Alive!**" This message is part of a national campaign aimed at warning the public about the dangers associated with abandoned mines.

• Please report abandoned mines in California by calling the AMLU's toll-free hotline at **1-877-OLD-MINE (1-877-653-6463)**.

• Outreach is an important part of the AMLU's program. AMLU staff respond to **1-877-OLD-MINE** calls and participate in safety fairs, Earth Day events, and kids' days.



Year	County	Abandoned Mine Accidents in California (2002 to date) (See also the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration website at www.msha.gov/sosa/SOSAhome.asp .)
2006	Kern	A 9-year-old boy was rescued and flown to a hospital after falling about 40 feet down an abandoned mine shaft (vertical opening) while on his motorcycle.
	El Dorado	Two workers, who entered an abandoned mine to pump water to fill a water tanker, were overcome by the pump's gas fumes and died. A third person was hurt trying to rescue the victims.
	Riverside	A man riding an off-road vehicle fell 40 feet down an abandoned mine shaft; 18 firefighters worked approximately seven hours to rescue him.
	San Bernardino	A 41-year-old man walked about 40 feet into an adit (horizontal opening) on private property and died after falling 50 feet down an internal shaft. One week later, another man fell into the same shaft; about 60 emergency workers helped to rescue him.
	Imperial	Two men, riding off-road in an area where travel is restricted to identified safe routes, were trapped for about 20 hours after they drove their vehicle into a shaft.
2005	Kern	Two men were trapped at the bottom of a 40-foot shaft while looking at nesting owls.
2004	Kern	A man, driving on a dirt road with his family, nearly backed into a 53-foot-deep abandoned mine shaft; he stopped with his car's left rear tire hanging over the edge.
	San Bernardino	A 21-year-old motorcyclist died after falling hundreds of feet into an uncovered shaft.
	Riverside	A 16-year-old girl suffered head injuries after falling 40 to 50 feet down a rock quarry.
	Kern	An 11-year-old boy plunged with his dirt bike 40 feet into a shaft.
2003	Kern	A 13-year-old boy discovered an abandoned mine while motorcycling, walked into the mine entrance, and was injured when he fell 30 feet down an internal shaft.
	Del Norte	A man and his 19-year-old son drove their vehicle into a 70-foot air shaft. The father died, and the son sustained serious injuries.
	Kern	A 32-year old motorcyclist was injured after falling about 50 feet into a shaft.
	San Bernardino	A 14-year-old motorcyclist fell 25 feet into a shaft and was rescued by his father.
2002	Orange	Two brothers exploring a flooded, abandoned mine tried to swim deeper into the mine, but died in the murky, gas-clogged water.
	Kern	A 10-year-old boy riding a bike with his family fell 200 feet down a shaft. He was trapped for four hours, but had no major injuries.

*The Department of Conservation's mission is to protect Californians and their environment by:
Protecting lives and property from earthquakes and landslides; Ensuring safe mining and oil and gas drilling;
Conserving California's farmland; and Saving energy and resources through recycling.*

(January 5, 2007)

STAY OUT!



STAY ALIVE!

Report old, dangerous, and unsafe mines to:

California Dept. of Conservation
Office of Mine Reclamation
Abandoned Mine Lands Unit

Call 877.OLD.MINE

(Toll Free)